

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In complete response to the Office Action dated October 6, 2005, on the above identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 15 – 30 are pending in this application.

With this amendment, claims 15 and 17 are amended. Claims 16 and 27 are cancelled. An Abstract has also been provided.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 24, 25, and 28 – 30 and giving notice that claims 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 15, 18, 19, and 23 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faerber (US 6,281,472). Due to the aforementioned claim amendments, the Applicants respectfully contend that the basis for this rejection deserves reconsideration.

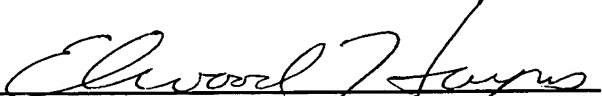
Claims 20 – 22, and 27 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faerber '472 in further view of Arai (US 4,945,207). Due to the aforementioned claim amendments, the Applicants respectfully contend that the basis for this rejection deserves reconsideration.

Claim 26 currently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Faerber in further view of Mori et al. (US 5,539,180). Due to the aforementioned claim amendments, the Applicants respectfully contend that the basis for this rejection deserves reconsideration.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 6, 2006

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 6th day of January, 2006.


Diana Guzman